

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-7 (Canceled).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) A postal sorting case assembly, comprising:

a plurality of multi-bags, each comprising a series of flexible walled bags disposed side by side such that mouths of the bags face a common direction and form a row, wherein the bags are united by a pair of reinforcing strips extending in the lengthwise direction of the ~~device~~ row along front corners thereof of the bags; and

a case having means for mounting the ~~storage devices~~ multi-bags therein with the bag mouths facing outwardly, and having a mechanism for tensioning the bags to hold the bag mouths open during loading of items therein and for relaxing the bags to facilitate mounting in and removal from the case.

9. (Currently Amended) The case of claim 8, wherein the case assembly further comprises spaced horizontal rails, and the ~~storage devices~~ multi-bags are removably mounted one above another in openings between the spaced horizontal rails.

10. (Currently Amended) The case of claim 8, wherein the case assembly further comprises a bag locking mechanism which releasably engages the reinforcing strips while the tensioning mechanism tensions the bags.

11. (Currently Amended) A multi-bag, comprising:

a series of ~~flexible walled bags~~ each comprising a pair of flexible side walls, a bottom uniting the side walls along mutually superposed edges thereof, and an open mouth, which bags are disposed side by side such that mouths of the bags face a common direction and form a row, giving the multi-bag a generally rectangular shape when unfilled and stretched to a taut condition;

a pair of reinforcing strips extending in the lengthwise direction of the multi-bag along opposite upper corners of the multi-bag; and

means for attaching the strips to the multi-bag so that the strips unite the bags of the multi-bag, wherein the strips and attaching means have sufficient strength so such that the multi-bag can be manually handled without causing individual bags to separate, but individual bags can be torn away from the multi-bag.

12. (Original) The multi-bag of claim 11, wherein the bags are made of high density polyethylene having a thickness in the range of about 1 to 2 mil.

13. (Original) The multi-bag of claim 11, wherein the strips have a series of tabs and notches along one edge thereof, such that one tab of each strip extends into the mouth of each respective bag.

14. (Currently Amended) The multi-bag of claim ~~11~~ 13, wherein the attaching means comprises an adhesive disposed between the tabs and the bags.

15. (Original) The multi-bag of claim 11, wherein the attaching means comprises mating projections and slots.

16. (canceled).

17. (Original) The multi-bag of claim 11, further comprising mail pieces which have been sorted to the bags.

18. (Original) The multi-bag of claim 17, wherein the mail pieces in each bag have a common delivery point.

19. (Canceled).

20. (New) The postal sorting case assembly of claim 8, wherein the tensioning mechanism comprises a movable frame mounted on the case, which movable frame includes one or more movable shelves on which the multi-bags are mounted such that movement of the movable shelf relative to a stationary shelf forming part of the case tensions the multi-bags.

21. (New) A mail delivery system, comprising:

a series of mail holding devices each comprising a pair of flexible side walls, a bottom uniting the side walls along mutually superposed edges thereof, and an open top, the mail holding devices being disposed side by side such that open tops face a common direction and form a row; one or more mail pieces placed in each mail holding device; and a container that holds the series of mail holding devices with mail placed therein.

22. (New) The mail delivery system of claim 21 wherein the mail holding devices comprise

bags.

23. (New) The mail delivery system of claim 21 wherein the container comprises a tub in

which the series of mail holding devices are disposed with the open tops facing upwardly.

24. (New) The mail delivery system of claim 21 wherein the container comprises a tray in

which the series of mail holding devices are disposed with the open tops facing upwardly.